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From: "Morning Energy" <morningenergy@politico.com>
Sent: Fri 12/7/2012 2:31:55 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, powered by America's Natural Gas Alliance: Congress passes energy efficiency bill - Looking more closely at NRECA - Upton spends \$4.5M in election - Energy in the Boustany-Landry runoff - Doha climate negotiations enter final day
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By Alex Guillén

BEHOLD, CONGRESSIONAL ACTION: After months of behind-the-scenes lobbying and several rounds of compromise, the Senate approved energy efficiency legislation Thursday, sending the bill to President Barack Obama's desk. The Senate greenlighted the legislation, known as the American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act, by unanimous consent just two days after the House passed the bill. Andrew Restuccia: <http://politico.pro/VLokSN>

OH FUDGE*, IT'S FRIDAY and welcome to Morning Energy, where the official lighting of ME's Christmas tree didn't have quite the same fanfare as the White House's - although your morning host did land an appearance by One Direction. Tell ME if that's a point (or 15) against - and share you energy news - at aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexaguillen, @POLITICOPro and @Morning_Energy.

*Only ME didn't say "fudge."

SO WHAT'S UP WITH NRECA: Darius Dixon takes a closer look at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which was thrown into the spotlight earlier this week when Rep. Jo Ann Emerson announced she is leaving Congress to head the group. The group has lobbied in support of the Keystone XL pipeline and to repeal light bulb efficiency standards. It has also weighed in on bills on health care, retirement, cybersecurity, broadband communications and efforts to rein in the Dodd-Frank financial reforms. Its overriding goal, however, is keeping utility prices as low as possible for their members. Darius has more for Pros: <http://politico.pro/TKtdw6>

FROM THE FILES OF THE FEC: Midnight was the deadline for candidates and political committees to file

post-general election reports with the Federal Election Commission. The reports cover Oct. 18 through Nov. 26 - meaning we now have data on who gave to whom in the campaign's final days. Here are ME's takeaways.

It's good to be the chairman: ME has written about the fundraising bump Rep. Fred Upton has enjoyed since taking over the Energy and Commerce gavel. So just how big a bump was it? Upton raised a little over \$4 million and spent nearly \$4.5 million on this election, way up from the \$1.9 million he raised and \$1.8 million he spent in 2010. It also blows out of the water the amount raised and spent by challenger Mike O'Brien - about \$293,000.

Last-minute contributions: USEC's PAC gave Upton \$1,000 on Election Day, records show. Upton also picked up \$4,000 from the Petroleum Marketers of America Association and \$1,000 from ConocoPhillips PAC on the day before the election. Other late contributions came from the PACs of Energy Transfer Partners, ExxonMobil, Growth Energy, Noble Energy and Valero. (ME has reported some of these contributions before.)

The Waxman race: Amount spent this cycle by top E&C Democrat Henry Waxman: \$2.2 million. Amount challenger Bill Bloomfield spent out of his own pocket: \$8.5 million. Bloomfield's final vote deficit: 25,200. Giving a longtime lawmaker the first election scare of his career: Priceless.

Meanwhile, at the Natural Resources Committee: Chairman Doc Hastings raised \$1.6 million and spent just \$694,000. Those are both up somewhat from 2010, when Hastings took in a little over \$1 million and spent \$530,000. His 2012 Democrat opponent, Mary Baechler, raised \$32,000 and spent \$25,000.

Let's talk war chests: Top Natural Resources Democrat Ed Markey likes to keep a big war chest - the Bay Stater's got more than \$3.1 million cash on hand (not being in any danger of losing your seat helps). Louisiana Republican Bill Cassidy also has a big bag with a dollar sign on it, keeping just over \$2 million. Other E&C and resources members with more than \$1 million on hand include Reps. Phil Gingrey, Ed Whitfield, Mike Pompeo, Marsha Blackburn, Joe Barton and John Shimkus, all Republicans. New Jersey Democrat Frank Pallone appears to have missed the midnight filing deadline. As of his last report, he had \$3.5 million on hand.

Not everyone spent lots of money: Utah Republican Rob Bishop shelled out just \$229,000, and Illinois Democrat Bobby Rush spent about \$289,000.

FUN FACT: Barack Obama, whom Rush defeated in during a 2000 primary challenge, spent \$1.123 billion between his committees and the Democratic National Committee on his reelection bid. That's 3,886 times more than Rush spent this cycle.

**** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance: Want cleaner air, greater U.S. energy security and more affordable options at the pump? Let's be friends. Check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/angaus> and join the call for natural gas now. ****

Lost dough: California Republicans Mary Bono Mack and Brian Bilbray both lost their reelection bids, leaving them with \$116,000 and \$60,000 in the bank, respectively. Democrat Betty Sutton, who lost in a match-up against fellow member Jim Renacci, is walking away with \$32,000.

Trade group roundup: A top spender this cycle among energy trade group PACs is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which disbursed a whopping \$3.3 million. Another big spender was Edison Electric Institute PAC, at \$783,000. Others: National Mining Association's CoalPAC (\$656,000), Nuclear Energy Institute (\$591,000), American Gas Association (\$403,000), American Wind Energy Association (\$336,000), American Petroleum Institute (\$207,000), Solar Energy Industries Association (\$123,000), America's Natural Gas Alliance (\$109,000) and the Renewable Fuels Association (\$5,000).

'War on coal?' The coal industry argues environmental regulations are hurting it badly, but apparently not badly enough to lay out some serious cheddar on the election. Aside from the \$656,000 spent by the NMA's CoalPAC, coal company PACs reported spending at least over \$4 million in 2011 and 2012. Top spending coal-producing PACs include Alpha Natural Resources (\$780,000), Arch Coal (\$538,000), CONSOL Energy (\$528,000), Murray Energy (\$423,000), Peabody Energy (\$251,000) and Black Hills Energy (\$234,000).

Chesapeake Energy PAC was very active, disbursing more than \$588,000 in the final days of the election. Much of that went to Republican candidates, including Doc Hastings, Eric Cantor, Hal Rogers, Ed Whitfield, Mike Pompeo, Jeff Flake, Dean Heller, Lee Terry and Michele Bachmann. They also gave to a number of Republicans who lost, including Richard Mourdock, Brian Bilbray, Mary Bono Mack, Dan Lungren, Allen West, Charlie Summers, Linda Lingle, Josh Mandel and Mia Love. Democrats who got Chesapeake money include John Lewis, Lloyd Doggett, John Dingell, Jim Clyburn and Sander Levin. In total, Chesapeake spent nearly \$2.3 million in 2011 and 2012.

BIDING THEIR TIME: Natural gas developer Encana, the company at the center of EPA's controversial report on groundwater contamination in Pavillion, Wyo., formed a PAC in 2007 but has yet to spend a dime. The PAC also hasn't raised much money: \$29,000 to date.

DOWN ON THE BAYOU: Of course there's one race yet to be decided: a runoff taking place tomorrow between Republicans Charles Boustany and Jeff Landry of Louisiana after neither managed to capture a majority of the vote in a Nov. 6 primary after being pushed into the same district when Louisiana lost a seat. So which candidate is the energy industry backing? It's something of a draw. According to a pre-runoff report and "48-hour" reports that reveal big donations made just before an election, Boustany has picked up at least \$48,000 from energy interests while Landry has gotten over \$50,000.

The qualifier: There's a pretty notable difference in where those contributions come from. Boustany, who's been in the House since 2005, got most of that cash from energy PACs, including \$5,000 bundles from the PACs of Valero, NextEra Energy and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and smaller contributions from the PACs of ConocoPhillips, Cheniere Energy, the American Gas Association, Tesoro and others.

Landry, meanwhile, picked up about \$10,000 from energy PACs, but the majority of his cash came from Louisiana energy businesses and individuals. Among them: Family members and offshore drilling businesses related to the Moncla clan, a variety of oilfield services firms and Dave Landry of Freeport-McMoRan Energy. Landry's campaign did not return ME's query about Dave's potential relationship to the congressman.

But what does T. Boone Pickens think? The oil magnate gave a total of \$2,500 to Boustany in mid-November.

COMING MONDAY: President Obama will travel to Daimler's Detroit Diesel engine manufacturing plant in Redford, Mich., for "an event on the economy."

DOHA'S ENTERING ITS LAST DAY: Here's what's going on, via Reuters: "A row over who will pay for dealing with the accelerating impact of climate change soured U.N. debate in Doha, where a final day of haggling was expected to do nothing to curb greenhouse gas pollution." <http://reut.rs/YSea7f>

NOT TO BE OUTDONE: ME wrote yesterday about Sen. Jim Inhofe's video to the Doha climate talks (<http://youtu.be/0NM0eeODOJk>), and now Environment and Public Works Chairwoman Barbara Boxer has her own message for negotiators - and she took a veiled swipe at Inhofe and other climate change skeptics on the Hill. "I want to send a clear message to the conference that there are leaders in Congress who understand the urgent threat facing the globe, and we are dedicated to preventing the terrible impacts of unchecked climate change," Boxer says in the video: <http://youtu.be/5AVtYimN5Zs>

Gore to Obama: NOT DOING ENOUGH ON CLIMATE CHANGE: Al Gore criticized Obama's climate change track record while speaking before the New York League of Conservation Voters yesterday. "I deeply respect our president and I am grateful for the steps that he has taken, but we cannot have four more years of mentioning this occasionally and saying it's too bad that the Congress can't act," Gore said. Reuters: <http://reut.rs/RbEMOI>

MARKEY: RETHINK SHELL ARCTIC DRILLING: The Anchorage Daily News writes about new Arctic drilling worries: "Reports that Shell's oil spill response dome was 'crushed like a beer can' during testing has heightened criticism of drilling in Arctic waters off Alaska. Massachusetts Rep. Ed Markey ... is arguing the test should make the Obama administration rethink its support of Shell's Arctic efforts." Markey's letter to Interior: <http://1.usa.gov/TWihZn>. More from the ADN: <http://bit.ly/UhzfAz>

SPOTTED: At last night's National Christmas Tree lighting: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, sporting a white cowboy hat but no bolo.

PTC BRIEFING: United Steelworkers, BlueGreen Alliance, Sierra Club and Oceana are hosting a Hill briefing on the wind production tax credit today at 10:30 a.m. in HVC-200. The event will feature representatives from those groups and wind workers from Pennsylvania and Indiana.

THE LONG READ - LOOKING BACK ON YUCCA: Adam J. White of the law firm Boyden Gray & Associates writes a "post-mortem" on Yucca Mountain in The New Atlantis. "The saga of Yucca Mountain's creation and apparent demise, and of the seeming inability of the courts to prevent the Obama administration from unilaterally nullifying the decades-old statutory framework for Yucca, illustrates how energy infrastructure is uniquely subject to the control of the executive branch, and so to the influence of presidential politics." <http://bit.ly/RAVHTS>

OPINION: United Nations Foundation President Timothy E. Wirth and Oxfam America President Raymond C. Offenheiser: "Climate change is and will be a truly global challenge and we cannot think we can tackle it - either its causes or its consequences - by ourselves. It requires a global response of proportions equal to the historical threat it poses." <http://politi.co/SK2fVA>

QUICK HITS

- The U.S. will likely give "another six-month reprieve from financial sanctions to India, South Korea, Turkey and others because they have reduced their purchases of crude oil from Iran," sources tell Reuters: <http://reut.rs/VpLQTO>
- The University of Texas will withdraw its controversial paper on the effects of shale gas drilling following a "damning independent review," The New York Times writes: <http://nyti.ms/Vq717z>
- NRG Energy is walking away from plans to build an 800 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Texas. Houston Chronicle: <http://bit.ly/XwfcFP>
- Los Angeles plans to buy 460 megawatts of solar power from Nevada. Reuters: <http://reut.rs/VpAOgl>
- ExxonMobil and Rosneft have agreed to a pilot drilling program to assess oil reserves in Western Siberia. Dow Jones: <http://bit.ly/Xx1UJ8>
- BP has started building "a new facility that will house what's being billed as the world's largest complex of supercomputers for commercial research," the Times-Picayune reports: <http://bit.ly/THU0tN>
- Electronics groups have inked a plan to cut power usage by DVRs, which can be power hogs. The NRDC, however, called it "a far cry from what is needed." Los Angeles Times: <http://lat.ms/11NIhh7>

THAT'S ALL FOR ME. Oh my god, I shot my eye out!

** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance: We believe in a clean energy future. Natural gas is a cleaner energy choice and a key partner to solar and wind technologies. From California to Florida, natural gas facilities are working with renewable energy to ensure steady, affordable and cleaner energy choices for communities across our nation. Because it is an abundant and affordable energy source available right here in America, natural gas can help make the promise of cleaner energy a reality in more American communities. Natural gas is smarter power today. Visit anga.us to learn more. **

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